

*On the Tæniodonta, a new group of Eocene Mammalia.*—Prof. COPE described the characters of some mammalia from the Eocene of New Mexico, obtained by him during the Wheeler expedition of 1874, which he regarded as allied to the *Insectivora*. The feet are armed with compressed claws. The dental characters are seen first in the supposed superior incisors. Unfortunately, they have not yet been found in place in the cranium, but their association with a rodent type of inferior incisors, which have been found in place in the mandible, confines us to the alternative choice between superior incisors and canines. From the small size, or absence, of inferior canines, a similar character may be inferred for the superior canines.

These superior incisors present two bands of enamel, an anterior and a posterior. They are compressed in form, the sides presenting a surface of dentine or cementum. Attrition produces a truncate or slightly concave extremity. The inferior incisors are rodent-like.

Two families represented this suborder in the Eocene period in New Mexico. The first, or *Ectoganidæ*, possesses molar teeth with several roots; in the *Calamodontidæ*, each molar has a simple conic fang. But one genus of each family is known. In both the enamel of the molars is principally a band on the outer side of the crown; the deficiency is supplied in *Calamodon* by a deposit of cementum, which invests the molar and superior incisor teeth, covering the crowns, excepting where the enamel bands are present. The latter investment is so much thinner, that the cementum forms a raised border all round at the point of junction of the two substances. The general structure of *Calamodon* affords some points of approximation to the *Edentata*, which indicate that the *Tæniodonta* partially fill the interval between that order and the *Insectivora*, presented by the existing fauna.

Prof. Cope also pointed out the close resemblance between the mandibular dentition of the cotemporary Eocene genus *Esthonyx*, and the existing *Erinaceus*, and stated that that of *Anchippodus* and allies chiefly differs from the latter in the persistent growth of the incisor teeth.

*On Tantalite from Yancey County, North Carolina.*—Dr. GEO. A. KOENIG spoke of a mineral from Yancey County, North Carolina. It occurs there with beryll, samarskite, columbite, spessartite, and other rare and interesting minerals. It is found in large massive pieces, has a black color and metallic lustre, streak dark reddish brown to black. The specimen in my possession weighs about a pound. It possesses three crystal faces, two of which are at right angles, all three in the same zone. One face is large, smooth, and bright, the other two are rough and uneven, and brown from ferric hydrate. There appears to be an imperfect cleavage parallel to the two faces at right angle. Fracture uneven to sub-conchoidal.